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WASHINGTON TALK

Briefing

Truth in Spying

Arkady N. Shevchenko's contention that he spied for the United States in his last years as an official at the United Nations is getting some support from a former associate. Judy Chavez, the Washington woman who said the former Soviet diplomat had used government money to give her \$35,000 to \$40,000 in cash and gifts after his defection in 1978, backs up the version of his intelligence activity presented in his best-seller, "Breaking With Moscow."

In an article written with Rudy Maxa in the August issue of Washingtonian magazine, Miss Chavez says Mr. Shevchenko told her of spying for the Central Intelligence Agency from 1975 to 1978. In a recent issue of The New Republic, Edward Jay Epstein contended that the Russian had invented much of his reported activity as a United States agent to spice up his book, an accusation that has been denied by the C.I.A. and some former intelligence officials.

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